

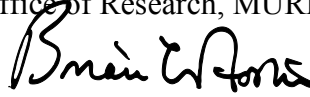
UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

March 12, 2012

TO: NSEI Faculty, Deans, Office of Research, MURR

FROM: Brian Foster, Provost



George Justice, Graduate Dean



SUBJECT: NSEI and Graduate School Reorganization

The Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute (NSEI) was founded at the University of Missouri in November of 2002 to build on MU's unique assets—especially facilities (exemplified by the MU Research Reactor) and human resources (in faculty and staff) devoted to research and education in Nuclear Science and Engineering. The structure of NSEI, which was laid out in a letter from Chancellor Richard Wallace, was an experimental effort to harness MU's resources effectively. The Institute was given five years to achieve financial self-sustainability and success in research and education. After those five years, the NSEI structure would be fully evaluated and either discontinued, modified, or continued.

Several events delayed the review mandated in Chancellor Wallace's letter. Most important, the interim director retired in 2006 and the search for a full-time director failed. The mandated review was finally conducted in the spring of 2010, however (please see attached review document). Clearly, NSEI has significant successes, but there also some concerns and some unrealized opportunities, as the review describes.

In light of the report of the external reviewers and a persistent annual deficit in general operating funds the university has decided to restructure NSEI in order to better achieve the high aspirations that led to its founding. **It is critical to stress that modifying the current structure, consistent with the terms laid out in the founding documents, does not signal an abandonment of research and education in Nuclear Science and Engineering.** The founding documents and the 2010 external review alike see the prominence and success of the MU Research Reactor as a unique resource in the state and in the country.

Based on input from MU faculty, the external report, deans, and others, the following three actions are anticipated to achieve an effective restructuring.



NSEI and Graduate School Reorganization

Page Two

March 12, 2012

First, it is critical that the new structure facilitate the engagement and a sense of ownership of many faculty broadly in the fields of Nuclear Science and Engineering, both in research and the educational programs. In the future, faculty who are actively engaged will not be tenured in the Institute, but all involved faculty may assume formal appointments as research or instructional faculty (see item 2 below). According to the letter founding the institute, the four current faculty members whose tenure homes moved with NSEI from the College of Engineering to the Graduate School will have two years to find departmental homes acceptable to themselves and to their new host departments. **The faculty members whose tenure homes will move out of the Graduate School will remain tenured members of the MU faculty with all relevant responsibilities and rights, both during this two-year period and afterwards.** No faculty on continuous employment will be terminated as a result of this process.

Second, the graduate programs in Nuclear Engineering, currently housed in the Graduate School, will remain there as interdisciplinary master's and doctoral degrees in Nuclear Science. The Graduate School will commence a search for a director of the graduate programs, which include master's and doctoral degrees with focuses in Health Physics and Medical Physics as well as power engineering. The director of the graduate programs will have a tenure home elsewhere but will report to the graduate dean in her or his role as program director. A committee comprising self-identified faculty interested in participating in the program will shape the future goals and curriculum of the master's and doctoral degrees. Current students will continue to be served during and after the transition period, which should be complete by July 1, 2012.

Third, NSEI will continue as a research center, to be renamed the "Nuclear Science Research Center" and reporting to the Vice Chancellor of Research. The Nuclear Science Research Center will likely be physically housed at the MU Research Reactor. This "Big C Center" will engage researchers from across campus in a structure much like other successful Big C centers at MU (e.g., the Dalton Center). Faculty may choose to affiliate with the Center for research, but salaries and academic homes will be in the various disciplinary departments and colleges.

The University of Missouri is confident that research and education in nuclear science will continue to be critical to the future of our nation and our university. Faculty members currently with tenure homes in NSEI will continue to play a central role in both research and education. The new structure will engage a much larger number of faculty, give them a sense of ownership, and greatly increase MU's research presence in Nuclear Science and Engineering

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cc: Brady Deaton, Chancellor